

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 L-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01

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UNCLAS CAIRO 2923

ROME FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJ: MINTOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION REMARKS ON EGYPTAIR

1. MINTOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION STINO REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED
FEBRUARY 16 TO PEOPLES ASSEMBLY TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE THAT GOE'S MINFIN WILL ABSORB EGYPTAIR'S LE 16
MILLION LOSSES (PERIOD UNSPECIFIED). HE EXPRESSED HOPE
ACCUMULATED DEBTS OF MINISTRY WILL
BE MADE GOOD BY MINFIN S
THAT CIVIL AVIATION PROJECTS FOR 1977 MAY BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED.

2. MINISTER'S PLANS FOR AIR TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT THIS YEAR
INCLUDE IMPROVEMENT OF LUXOR AIRPORT TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
AT COST OF LE 3.8 M LLION. STINO TOLD PEOPLES ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE
THAT THIS AMOUNT IS INCLUDED IN 1977 BUDGET. UPON
COMPLETION OF PROJECT, LUXOR AIRPORT WILL ACCOMMODATE 8 OR 9
AIRCRAFT OF BOEING 707 SIZE DAILY AND VARIOUS SAFETY-RELATED

EQUIPMENT WILL BE IN PLACE. FIVE-YEAR PLAN ENVISAGES CONVERSION OF
MERSA MARUH AIRPORT INTO INTERNATIONAL FACILITY AND PLANS
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ARE UNDERWAY TO CONSTRUCT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT
ALEXANDRIA. FUNDS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT
ABU SIMBEL AIRPORT.

3. MINISTER NOTED TO COMMITTEE THAT LE 1 MILLION HAS BEEN
EARMARKED IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET FOR CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF
CAIRO AIRPORT, BUT STATED THAT SUN NEEDS TO BE INCREASED TO

LE 3 MILLION.

HE WARNED THAT CAIRO WILL BE UNABLE TO ABSORB
PROJECTED TRAFFIC IN NEAR FUTURE IF FUNDING IN THAT AMOUNT
IS NOT NADR AVAILABLE.

4. MIN STINO ALSO SAID THAT HIS MINISTRY WELCOMES FOREIGN
INVESTMENT IN COMPANIES OF "FLYING TAXI" TYPE FOR DOMESTIC
SERVICE BETWEEN CAIRO, ASWAN, LUXOR, ABU SIMBEL, HERGHADA AND
NEW VALLEY. (HERGHADA AIRPORT IS LOCATED ON THE RED SEA AND
NEW VALLEY AIRPORT IS IN WESTERN DESERT; PRESUNABLY SERVICE O
THOSE AIRPORTS WOULD BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSPORTING
WORKERS BETWEEN CAIRO AND NEW VALLEY AND TOURISTS TO AND FROM
HERGHADA.)

5. COMMENT: GIVEN OTHER DEMANDS ON EGYPTIAN FINANCIAL
RESOURCES, IT IS NOT CERTAIN HOW MUCH OF ABOVE CONSTRUCTION
ACTIVITY WILL ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. TOURISM HAS
A HIGH PRIORITY IN OOE'S PLANNING, HOWEVER AND THERE ARE PLANS TO

DO A NUMBER OF THINGS OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED,. QUESTION IS WHEN.
EILTS

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